THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The proposal for enhancement of age of Doctors belonging to General Duty Medical Officer (GDMO) sub-cadre of Central Health Service has been referred to Sixth Central Pay Commission.

(b) Yes, Sir. The age of retirement of only three Specialist sub-cadres of Central Health Service has been increased mainly due to the following reasons:

(i) Shortage of doctors in Specialists sub-cadres.

(ii) Late Entry of Specialist into Service.

(iii) Increase of seats, in Central Education Institutions for implemention of the Government decision to reserve 27% Seats for OBC Candidates.

(c) and (d) The proposal was brought before the Cabinet, which decided not to go ahead with the same, as similar issues are being examined by 6th CPC.

Hepatitis-B elimination drive

1432. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to start a drive against Hepatitis-B in the country;

(b) if so, by when and the reasons for not introducing it in all the States, particularly Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(c) whether newly born babies and small children only shall be vaccinated with the monovalent Hepatitis-B or the young ones also; and

(d) how far this vaccination has proved to be fruitful?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): No, Sir. It conducted only a pilot project against Hepatitis B in 14 cities and 33 districts in the country enclosed list at Statement (*See* below) in the year 2002.

(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) Under the pilot project of Hepatitis B, vaccination was given to infants of 0-1 year of age.

(d) Year-wise coverage of 3rd dose of Hepatitis B vaccine under pilot area is as under:—

Year	Coverage(%)
2003	89
2004	86
2005	69
2006	72
2007*	74

*Provisional figure (Jan-July 2007)

Statement

List of Cities and Districts covered under Pilot Project of Hepatitis B

State/U.T	Cities	Districts
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Madurai
		Nilgiri
		Virudhnagar
		Ramanathapuram
Kerala		Alapuzzha
		Emakulam
		Pathnamthitta
Karnataka	Bangalore	Kodagu
		Shimoga
		Mysore
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Chittoor
		Vizianagaram
Goa		Goa
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Ratnagiri
	Pune	Chandrapur
		Satara
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal & Indore	Balaghat
Orissa		Sundergarh
Punjab		Rupnagar
		Hoshiarpur
Haryana		Panchkula
		Ambala
Himachal Pradesh		Hamirpur
		Solan
Uttaranchal		Nainital
Pondicherry		Pondicherry
Lakshadweep		Lakshadweep
Assam		Jorhat
		Sibsagar

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir		Rajouri
		Udhampur
Gujarat	Ahmedabad & Vadodara	Surat
Andaman and Nicobar Islands		A and N District
Delhi	Delhi	
West Bengal	Kolkatta	
Rajasthan	Jaipur	
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow & Kanpur	
Bihar	Patna	

Import of diethelene glycol

†1433. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diethelene glycol is being imported from China;

(b) whether Government are aware that some of the companies are using Chinese made diethelene glycol which is a poison in place of glycerine in cough syrups and toothpastes etc.; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Diethelene Glycol is not a drug. Therefore, this Ministry is not regulating its import.

(b) and (c) Diethylene glycol is not a constitutent of drugs. Propylene glycol is a pharmaceutical aid, used in drugs and cosmetics. The monograph of Propylene glycol in Indian Pharmacopeias specifies the test for other Glycols, including Diethelene Glycol.

All manufacturers using these constituents are expected by law, to test for the absence of diethylene glycol.

This Ministry is well aware of the warning notice of USFDA as diethlene glycol has been found in the United States in certain toothpastes imported from China. The office of DCG(I) has informed all the port offices, zonal offices at CDSCO, State Drugs Controllers in the country and customs department about the US FDA

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.